

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 05456 151437Z
ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1667
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY MANAGUA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 5456

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT NU GT VZ
SUBJECT: NICARAGUA SITUATION: VICE PRESIDENT OPENLY CRITICAL OF
FOREIGN MINISTRY STANCE ON VENEZUELAN INITIATIVE

REF: GUATEMALA 5398

1. SUMMARY: VICE PRESIDENT'S CRITICISM OF FOREIGN MINISTER
COULD MAKE MORE DIFFICULT A SHIFT IN GOG POSITION IN FAVOR OF
MFM CONVOCATION, AND INDICATES THAT THEIR JURISDICTIONAL FUED
HAS NOT BEEN WELL PAPERED OVER. END SUMMARY.

2. IN PRESS CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 13, VICE PRESIDENT VILLAGRAN
KRAMER TOOK AIM AT HIS FREQUENT ADVERSARY, FOREIGN MINISTER
CASTILLO VALDEZ, BY TERMIN ILL-CONSIDERED THE LATTER'S RECENT
STATEMENT (REF) PUTTING THE GOG ON RECORD AGAINST CONVOCATION
OF THE OAS MFM. "AS A JURIST, I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW SUCH A
DECISION COULD HAVE BEEN MADE," HE IS QUOTED AS SAYING,
ADDING THAT HE WOULD MAKE THE "MOST STRENUOUS EFFORT POSSIBLE
TO HAVE GUATEMALA BACK ANY OAS DECISION LOOKING TOWARD
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PAGE 02 GUATEM 05456 151437Z

SOLUTION OF THE NICARAGUAN CONFLICT."

3. VILLAGRAN ALSO ADDED HIS DENIAL TO THOSE OF OTHER
GOG SPOKESMAN THAT ANY GOG FORCES HAD BEEN DISPATCHED
TO AID SOMOZA, THIS IN CONTEXT OF RUMORS HERE OF GUATEMALAN
AND SALVADORAN "MERCENARIES" IN NICARAGUA. HE OBSERVED
THERE WAS NOTHING IN GUATEMALAN LAW TO PREVENT GUATEMALAN

CITIZENS FROM SERVING WITH SOMOZA. HIS INFORMATION, HE SAID, WAS THAT THEY WERE "LIBERACIONISTAS," IE, MLN TYPES.

4. COMMENT: VILLAGRAN'S PUBLIC CRITICISM OF THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S NEGATIVENESS ON OAS CONVOCATION IS UNFORTUNATE. IT WILL MAKE A SHIFT IN THE GOG POSITION MORE AWKWARD THAN IT MIGHT OTHERWISE BE, LEST IT BE REPRESENTED AS VINDICATING THE VICE PRESIDENT OVER THE FOREIGN MINISTER. QUIESCENT FOR SOME DAYS, THEIR UNSEEMLY JURISDICTIONAL RIVALRY EMERGED AGAIN WHEN PRESIDENT LUCAS DESIGNATED CASTILLO VALDEZ RATHER THAN VILLAGRAN TO BE HIS REPRESENTATIVE TO THE SEPTEMBER 12 CONGRESSIONAL CEREMONY MARKING GUATEMALA'S INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY. VILLAGRAN WAS PIQUED, AND SOME OF HIS POLITICAL SUPPORTERS IN THE PR HAVE EXPRESSED PUBLIC DISPLEASURE.
BOSTER

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Message Attributes

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